that most of the wagons contained substantial quantity of timber not supported by valid legal documents. The timber contained in about 200 wagons has been seized. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted by the Ministry for detailed investigation. After analysing the documents, showcause notices have been issued to consignors of 138 wagons for confiscation and other action against them. Licences of sixty two based industries have been suspended.

Projects pending for approval

† 649. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for approval, including Ajay Barrag Project and Punasi Reservoir Project in Bihar;

(b) if so, by when all these projects are likely to get clearance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (c) Two mining projects in Bihar are pending for forest clearance. No project of Bihar is pending for Environment clearance. Forest clearance proposal in respect of Ajay Barrage was rejected on 16.12.1988 due to non-receipt of requisite information. In respect of proposal for environment clearance, the project proponent has been advised on 3.3,2000 to submit the proposal as per procedure laid down in the EI A notification of 1994 and its subsequent amendments. Proposal for Forest clearance in respect of Punasi Reservoir project has not been received; however, environmental clearance was accorded on 28.6.1992.

(b) Decision on proposals for environment forest clearance is taken within ninety days of receipt of complete information.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.